

Maine Department of Education
Summer Literacy Institute
August 10-12, 2010



Responsive Literacy Instruction for All Learners

Sponsored by Maine Reading First and the Maine Content Literacy Project

Questions and Answers

What is the Summer Literacy Institute?

Schools make effective changes to literacy practices when their staffs engage in collaborative inquiry. The *Summer Literacy Institute* is an opportunity for teams of educators to learn collectively and to design action plans to improve literacy learning in their schools.

Who is the Institute for?

The Academy is for teams from schools serving students in grades K-6 who strive to improve the literacy learning experiences of their students and who intend to work together in 2010-11 school year to realize that goal. Team size and composition are up to each school. However, teams should include representation from faculty and administrators who will be able to contribute to the development of a draft action plan, and teams should come with the support of administrators and colleagues who will not be on the attending team.

What will the outcomes be for teams?

As a result of participating in the Summer Literacy Institute, teams will:

- Study findings related to implementing and sustaining school literacy initiatives and apply them to their own school's experiences.
- Study findings related to research-based literacy practices and apply them to their own school's experiences.
- Develop an action plan for their school aimed at improving students' achievement of literacy learning standards.
- Learn and adopt research-based techniques for literacy instruction and assessment appropriate for students in grades K-6.
- Enhance their capacity to work effectively as a team.

How will teams spend their time?

Roughly half of teams' time will be devoted to work sessions to develop their action plans. Summer Literacy Institute staff will provide consultation to teams during this process. The other half of teams' time will be spent attending the keynote and workshop sessions related to a variety of literacy instruction and assessment topics.

What are some of the literacy topics on which keynotes and workshop sessions will focus?

Keynote sessions will address coordinated literacy programs, leadership for literacy instruction and assessment, and vocabulary instruction across the K-6 span. Workshop session topics will include, but not be limited to, comprehension instruction, vocabulary instruction, fluency and word study instruction, content literacy strategies, leadership, coaching, data analysis, data team meetings, literacy interventions, collaborative routines, Response to Intervention components, and literacy assessments (including examination of NECAP).

Who will present the keynotes and workshop sessions?

Nationally known presenters will deliver the keynotes as well as some of the breakout session. These include Susan Ebbers, an expert in vocabulary instruction; Dr. Stan Paine, an expert in literacy leadership and sustainability, and Dr. Julie Meltzer, an expert in comprehensive literacy programs. Workshop sessions will be provided by literacy specialists from the National Reading Technical Assistance Center (NRFTAC) as well as by educators from Maine.

What are some literacy issues on which schools could focus?

A wide range of literacy issues is possible for focus. Some examples schools might consider, but are not limited to, include: response to intervention plans, implementation and use of literacy assessments, instructional strategies to address essential reading and/or writing components, coordination of ongoing grade level data meetings, establishing ongoing literacy partnerships between home and school, creating consistent tier one literacy instruction across grade levels, developing plans for tier two and three interventions, aligning literacy curriculum with the standards, or planning for professional learning communities.

When and where is the Summer Literacy Institute?

The Summer Teacher Academy will be held August 10-12, 2010 at the University of Maine.

What will the Institute Schedule look like?

August 10:

- Arrival (2:00 p.m.)
- Orientation and Overview
- Team Time—work on Action Plan
- Opening Keynote—Dr. Julie Meltzer

August 11:

- Morning Keynote—Susan Ebbers
- Workshop Sessions
- Team Time—work on Action Plan
- Workshop Sessions
- Team Time—work on Action Plan

August 12:

- Morning Keynote—Dr. Stan Paine
- Team Time—work on Action Plan
- Workshop Sessions
- Team Time—work on Action Plan

What is the cost of the Institute?

Attendance at the Institute will cost \$75 per participant. This fee will cover attendance at all keynotes and workshop sessions, two nights lodging on campus in dorms (doubles), meals, and consultation by MDOE staff. If teams elect not to stay on campus for housing, the cost will be \$50 per participant. If a single dorm room is requested, an additional charge of \$40 (\$20 per night) will be applied.

What can you do if you are interested in attending the Institute?

Please meet with your faculty to identify a data-based literacy issue for which you would like to develop an action plan and identify team members who will be able to represent your school at the institute to draft a plan. It is strongly encouraged that an administrator be part of the team to insure that the team will have support for implementation of the plan during the 2010-11 school year. **Additionally, your team should identify one person who will serve as the team leader for the experience.** The team leader will be the person through whom the MDOE will communicate about the summer institute experience, and will need to participate in a conference call on either June 8 or June 10 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. to obtain additional details about the institute. Once decisions about team membership have been made, please complete the attached registration form and return it with payment.

What is the registration deadline?

The deadline for Summer Literacy Institute registrations is May 28, 2010. Payment may be made in the form of a check or purchase order to State of Maine. Purchase orders may be dated after July 1, 2010.

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